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SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1900.

## HARD TO REACH TRUTH.

The account furnished by Dr. G. P. Smith, and published in yesterday's Star, shows the difficulty of obtaining any accurate information with regard to events in China. Dr. Smith was present at the military hospital at Tientsin up to July 5. He saw Admiral Seymour's force start out, of course, as a civilian spectator; he saw it return, and attended the wounded in the military hospital, his own civilian field having been cut from under his feet by the rebellion, or uprising or anti-western movement, whatever one may be pleased to call it.

But after all, the Doctor's statement is purely negative. He did attend wounded men whom Seymour's force brought in. It is perfectly clear that Seymour would not kill his wounded when he was able to handle them and save his live troops. That the commander was in most severe straits, we all know, but as he got nearer to Tientsin he probably could cope with his difficulties. It seems almost impossible that anyone for mere purpose of sensationalism, would invent the story. The force was not likely to tell the story to the civilian doctor, who had volunteered for the military hospital, and he left China before the story which was telegraphed east, became current news.

In dealing with matters from China we have to be very chary of believing anything. There are some accurate writers going to the seat of war, but even they will be apt to have to depend on rumor. In civilized warfare the correspondent, bar bullets, is comparatively safe. If he is taken by the side opposite to which he was first attached, he may sometimes continue his correspondence from a different standpoint. But in China, as things are now, the correspondent has to keep very carefully within the lines of the forces to which he is attached. He dare not take the risk of torture which would be his fate if he were captured. The result will be that our information from China will continue to be very imperfect and it will be impossible to form an impartial view of the situation.

## NATIONALITY.

An able article by Professor Charles Roux upon the nationality of the Transvaal appears in the Review of the Republic, a publication which has just been launched and which promises to take its place among the most brilliant of the monthly publications.

The contention of a certain class of French writers, of writers upon the continent of Europe, and of some in the United States is that the Boers represent a distinct nationality. But Great Britain has never acknowledged the absolute independence of the Transvaal, and the European governments in refusing to admit the Transvaal representatives at the Congress of The Hague, officially endorsed Great Britain's view.

The Professor enters upon the subject of true nationality. He points out that a true nationality is the state of people united, generally of the same stock and of the same language, who have for a long time lived the same life, passed through the same joys and trials, creating common traditions and a special type which have found their expression in literary and artistic work.

The Boers do not fulfill these conditions. They have abandoned the rich Dutch tongue for an uncouth dialect. They are, for the most part very ignorant and have neither literary nor artistic culture. They have lived for many years in a state of anarchy, refusing to pay the taxes necessary to carry on the government, and only united when foreigners came to work the gold mines to get super-abundant resources out of them.

It is interesting to note this defence coming from a French source, as it shows that the opinion of the opponents of Great Britain is not united. This question of nationality will play a considerable part in the future pacification of the Transvaal, and a good deal of rubbish will be written about a nation having been wiped out at the end of the nineteenth century. But no nation has been wiped out. The Boers never constituted a true nationality as Professor Roux shows.

## HAWAIIAN CHINESE.

Some times we build better than we know. There are people here who have objected to our educational system, because it gave the same advantages to the Eastern races as it did to the Western. They have complained because the Chinese have been getting a Western education. They may rest satisfied that what has been done is for the best interests of the community.

The Chinese residents here almost to a man belong to the reform party, and are therefore opposed to the Boxers and to the party of the Empress Dowager. This has in a great measure been

brought about by the influence of the young Chinese who have been brought up in our schools, and have imbibed our Western ideas and are accustomed to our Western manners.

Those who have had the care of the education here have always maintained that the advantages of education should be open to all no matter of what race. In consequence we have a most mixed population in our schools, but through this mixing we get the various national prejudices rubbed away, and the result is a fairly harmonious population.

We have none of the anti-Chinese feeling among our youth which is so common on the mainland, and which is displayed by new comers from the States. This displays itself in San Francisco and other towns in acts of hoodlumism. There is naturally a counter feeling on the part of the Chinese, and the result is that the Chinese of San Francisco are very different from the Chinese of the Territory of Hawaii.

With us the American and European lad learns to respect the Chinese lad with whom he is in daily contact in the class room and on the play ground. He appreciates his skill on the baseball ground and respects his attainments in mathematics or English literature. And the effect upon the Chinese youth is reciprocal. He learns to respect and like his Western brother. This process has been going on for years here, and the consequence has been that when the reform movement was laid before the Chinese colony here, it readily fell into line, and prepared to do its utmost to carry it out. The sympathies, therefore, of the Chinese here are on the side of the Western. They do not desire, however, to see their country dismembered, but they desire to see it regenerated and brought up on the plane of Western advancement. This can only be brought about by an education such as they, themselves, have enjoyed.

It is the gross ignorance and dense superstition of the mass of the Chinese which has made them behave worse than Apache Indians. Of course at the present time the only education that the Chinese will get in China will be through Krupp cannon, Nordenfelts and Mauser and Krag-Jorgenson rifles. But if ever the world is to have peace from China, it will be through the education and elevation of the mass of the people. This will come about through the reform movement, when once the flame of rapine and cruelty is quenched in oceans of blood, as it will have to be.

Honolulu is always liberal in the cause of charity. The employees of the iron works made up a purse and then appealed to the town on behalf of Mrs. Unbrecht, whose husband was drowned a short time ago. The result is that Mrs. Unbrecht will be set up in business and will be able to support herself and her children.

An American company for the war in China is being raised in Honolulu, and will be offered to the Secretary of War. The Territory will not be behind its fellows on the Mainland, in being prepared to avenge the deaths of countrymen and countrywomen, which have sent a thrill of horror throughout the civilized world.

If Lord Roberts is sent to China, he will outrank all the generals and will have command of the whole of the allied forces. Lord Roberts' reputation and his diplomatic skill make him peculiarly well adapted for commanding such a force as will be assembled in China. The Transvaal matter might be finished by the chief of staff, Lord Kitchener.

It has been officially decided to call the Executive building, the Capitol, this bringing ourselves in line with other States and Territories. It has been styled so by The Star since the territorial law went into operation, and the name was frequently used in conversation. Usage would gradually have fastened the name upon the building in time, but the official decision gives permanence to the name at once.

Last night's rain cooled the air, and the morning broke crisp and pleasant. The heat of yesterday was almost unbearable. By the way, the hot wave is being felt throughout the northern hemisphere, and the scientists are connecting it with the sun spots which are unusually numerous just now. Our knowledge of sun spots is still very crude, and many theories are advanced with regard to them.

Vice-Consul Goo Kim denies that he has purchased a gun. There is no reason why he should do so. The old established merchant is highly respected both by his countrymen and by the American and European communities resident here. His wife is an Hawaiian lady, and his children are in our schools. It is Consul Yang who has turned himself into a walking arsenal, though there is no necessity for that, nobody will do him any harm.

The subject of importing negroes as laborers for the plantations has been laid before the Hawaiian Planters' Association in a practical form. If we are to have negroes one would much prefer to have them from the farming population of the Southern States, than from the semi-Spanish population of Porto Rico. The southern darkey understands American institutions and can talk English. Many negroes now are well educated and are desirous of having their children well educated. The negroes from Porto Rico are densely ignorant, do not want their children educated, and can only talk a garbled form of Spanish; moreover, they know nothing of American institutions. By all means let us get the American negroes, if we must have any.

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